



- *Looking for Alibrandi* is an Australian play written by Vidya Rajan, based on the novel by Melina Marchetta. This production of *Looking for Alibrandi* is a co-production with Malthouse Theatre. The production, directed by Stephen Nicolazzo, premiered at Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne on 13 July 2022.
- *Looking for Alibrandi* runs for approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes, including one interval.
- *Looking for Alibrandi* is set in Sydney in the 1990s and takes place over the course of Josie Alibrandi's final year of high school. The play is set in a slightly later time period to the novel.
- There are six actors in the production. The character of Josephine 'Josie' Alibrandi is played by one actor throughout the production (Chanella Macri). The actor playing Christina, Josie's mother, (Lucia Mastrantone) doubles as Josie's school friend Sera. The actor playing John Barton (Hannah Monson) also doubles as Ivy, Josie's nemesis at school. Nonna and Sister Bernadette are both played by actor Jennifer Vuletic. Other actors play a variety of different characters each.
- The style of the production is slightly heightened naturalism. The story is told from the point of view of the protagonist, Josie Alibrandi, who at times addresses the audience directly.
- The action of the play takes place at various locations, both indoor and outdoor, in Sydney, including Josie's home, her grandmother's home and her high school. The set is unchanged throughout the production and different areas of the stage are used to represent the different locations.
- *Looking for Alibrandi* contains occasional strong language, spoken in English and Italian
- *Looking for Alibrandi* contains sexual references. Characters of all ages make reference to sexual desire. Sexual references are made in the context of growing up, and experiencing sex for the first time.
- The character of Josie changes into different costumes on stage during the course of the production. This is done as a plot point (when the character needs to change for school or the dance) and also as a theatrical device. **The character of Josie is onstage in a state of partial undress during several scenes in the production**, wearing underwear covered by dark sheer tights and a modest bra.
- One scene contains staged intimacy in which Josie and Jacob Coote start to have sex. Before going to Jacob's house Sera provides Josie with a bottle of alcohol, and Josie asks Sera 'Does it hurt'. Once at Jacob's house the scene is slightly awkward, with a comic effect. Josie says 'It's important to be safe' and Jacob produces a wrapped condom. **The audience sees Josie in a state of partial undress (underwear and tights)** lying directly on top of Jacob, but the intimacy does not progress any further. The production contains no nudity.
- **Spoiler Warning:** *Looking for Alibrandi* contains the death of a young person by suicide. The suicide of John Barton is spoken about on stage, but not depicted. Characters told the news are seen to be visibly upset. At one point after his death, Josie expresses anger at John for taking his own life.
- The production contains moments of racism, intended to illustrate the prejudice experiences by Josie and her family. Terms such as 'wog' and 'ethnic' are used by Josie as both positive and negative, other times they are used by other characters in a derogatory way.
- The production contains references to domestic violence when Katia, Josie's Nonna, speaks about her marriage. There is one incidence of stage violence in the production – Josie hits Ivy after she calls her a 'dirty wog'. Tomato passata is used to represent blood coming from Ivy's nose.
- *Looking for Alibrandi* includes references to cultural influences in Australia in the 1990s, including Prime Minister John Howard, broadcaster Margaret Throsby, *Married ... With Children* and *Dolly* magazine. It may assist students to have some prior knowledge of these people/references.
- *Looking for Alibrandi* contains some religious discourse – particularly in reference to Catholicism and its teachings, including abstinence, saints and sinners.
- Some students may need to be briefed about theatre etiquette. Please turn mobile phones off completely and refrain from eating in the theatre. **Students need to know that the performance is live and that the actors see and hear them in the audience.** Schools shows are followed by a Question and Answer session with the cast. Students will have a chance to ask question about anything they don't fully understand afterwards.

Schools performance tickets are not sent out beforehand, please collect your tickets from the Box Office in the foyer of the theatre upon arrival on the day. Phone our box office on 02 9699 3444 if you need to check your booking.